

AMHERST CULTURAL COUNCIL (ACC)

Fiscal Year 2007

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the Massachusetts Cultural Council provides funds to the local cultural councils of each city and town of the Commonwealth to support the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences. The ACC distributes our share of these state funds each year to local artists and performers based upon written proposals.

We are committed to funding a diversity of projects, both traditional and experimental, which address the interests and needs of children and adults within the unique cultural milieu of Amherst.

The appropriation from the Commonwealth for fiscal 2007 was \$21,830. We started the grant cycle with \$16,337 in interest (derived from money allocated but unspent in previous years), and of that sum \$5,315 was spent. Added to the \$21,830, the total spent by the ACC was \$27,145. We received 72 grant applications, of which 11 were PassGrants from the local schools, which typically apply for funds to support students' attendance at theatrical and artistic performances. Altogether, 49 grant applications were approved and 23 denied. As in years past, awards were made based on the following criteria: those projects which would expand cultural resources within Amherst, those projects which would support existing cultural resources within Amherst, and those projects which would benefit the greatest number of citizens within Amherst.

ACC board members during the fiscal 2007 cycle were Edith Byron, Anne Burton, Ann Woodbridge, Laurie Nisonoff, Katya Ites, and Howard Sonoda. Sondra Radosh, the Children's Librarian at the Jones Library, was our staff liaison.

The ACC was very proud to nominate Maureen Moore of EQUINOX for a Gold Star Award. Ms. Moore was given the Gold Star Award by the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the spring of 2007, recognizing the excellence and continuing energy of her journal and supportive, lively programs for poets.

These grants fill a real need in the cultural life of the area, and they do a lot to encourage participation in the arts and to make possible the wide variety of offerings that local residents enjoy throughout the year.

Edith Byron, Chair